

SENATOR NELSON: We did not get our half cent...or we did not get a half cent sales tax. Our counties are having severe problems in matching funds. Some of this is matching fund money. Some of my counties in our Region 3, I think seven counties to be exact, if more money was given to them today, they would not have the money to match. As you know, it's \$1.00 on 7 1/2 and \$1.00 on 3 for mental health. I think that is probably one of the reasons that Omaha has been able to move forward and take advantage of the programs, simply because the farm economy does not hit them like it does us outstate, and they have the money to match it, and some of the other counties simply have not had. For the money I got out of LB 280 I'm proud to say that that will not be matching money. So I hope it helps us all evenly.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please, and then Senator Marsh.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, several have spoken on the same thing that I was going to say. I appreciate very much the problems that many of the regions feel they have. As has been indicated, we do have language in the bill that hopefully will provide the structure that the inequities do exist or at least are perceived to exist can be resolved next time. I was involved in concurring with what DPI set out about to do last time, which was to develop a model that had some basis on which to not only arrive at the total dollar amount for mental retardation, but also the distribution between regions. That first effort drew a lot of disagreement from those who were affected by it. But we have repeatedly told them, or at least I have, that not again will we continue to distribute the funds for mental retardation without some standard in which reasonable people can make a judgement for that distribution, both as to the total amount, and the amount by regions, amount by type of handicap. I fully intend, and I think the Appropriations Committee fully intends to do exactly that. But to make a shift now, I think each region can make an argument rightfully so for why their region has a problem that needs to be addressed, but I don't think that we can address it with this kind of a transfer. I would urge you not to adopt the amendment. But I also want to say that those who are concerned about mental retardation don't believe...don't ever believe we are going to keep doing it like we did it this year, or in the past,